52. Excise. The biennial contract in force for the vend of country liquor having expired by the close of 1099, fresh contracts for a further period of two years were entered into from the commencement of the current year. The contract distillery system in regard to arrack is already in force throughout the State, except in the taluk of Devicolam, where, owing to peculiar geographical and other conditions, the right of manufacture and vend of arrack is vested in one and the same contractor. With effect from the beginning of the current year, the independent shop system, with its concomitant of tree-tax in regard to toddy, has been extended to the whole State, barring the Devicolam taluk where no toddy is drawn ; the number of both arrack and toddy shops has been reduced by about 5 per cent. for the current biennial contract ; and the duty on jaggery arrack has been raised from Bh. Rs. 3 as.12 to Bh. Rs. 4 and that on toddy arrack from Bh. Rs. 6 as.14 to Bh. Rs. 8 as.9 p.6 per proof gallon. The consumption of country liquor has gone down from 1,60,631 proof gallons in 1096 to 1,05,782 proof gallons or by 34 per cent. in 1099; and the changes introduced at the commencement of the current biennial contract should conduce to a further reduction in its consumption. The report of the Excise Committee, referred to in paragraph 48 of my last year's address, has been received and is being published with a view to invite criticism. The report by a majority recommends, *inter alia*, that no toddy or arrack shop be opened within two furlongs of a market, school-house or other place of public resort, that, as a rule, no shop, whether arrack or toddy, be opened within half a mile from one another in municipal areas and one mile in rural parts, and that a reduction of 5 per cent. in the total number of shops be made at the end of each biennium so as to enable the State to reach the ideal of total prohibition within a measurable distance of time. The report will engage the careful consideration of the Government on the expiry of the period allowed for public criticism.

53. Education. The committee appointed to consider and report on the question of a separate University for Travancore has submitted its report which is now in process of printing. The committee has recommended the establishment of a University of the federal type with headquarters at Trivandrum. As regards the area to be brought within its ambit, the committee has suggested that the Government should ascertain the possibility of securing the immediate co-operation, on reasonable terms, of Cochin and Malabar in the creation of a pan-Kerala University, and has urged that, even in the event of such co-operation not forthcoming, the University should be started, its doors being kept open for the incorporation, on equal terms with those of Travancore, of educational institutions of university standing in other parts of Kerala. The report is a bulky volume containing much matter for close study and careful examination; and the Government propose, as early as practicable, to devote their attention to the consideration of the problems therein discussed.

54. The question of admitting a larger number of students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College again came up for consideration at the end of the last academic year, and the Government, after examining the problem of collegiate education in the State in all its aspects, ordered the bifurcation of the college, the Science departments remaining in the old buildings and the Arts departments being removed to the new building in the premises of the Training College at Taikad. The strength of the college, which had risen from 647 in 1096 to 837 in 1098, further rose to 1,201 as a result of this bifurcation. A considerably larger number of Travancore students have thus been able to secure admission to the colleges in Trivandrum. The old college, which is designated His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Science, contains the Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Natural Science departments, together with provision for teaching English up to the B. A. Pass degree standard, while the new college, known as His Highness the Maha Raja's College of Arts, contains the History and Languages departments with Honors courses in English and History. Application has been made to the University for the affiliation of the College of Science in the Mathematics Honours course, while the question of opening a Geology chair also in that college and a Philosophy chair in the College of Arts is under the consideration of the Government. Several structural alterations were carried out in the buildings of the old

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

college to make them suitable to the new changes introduced, and a substantial addition was made to the teaching staff. More additions to the buildings in that college have since been sanctioned to meet the anticipated further increase in its strength, while the proposal for a similar addition to the buildings in the College of Arts is under examination. In the Training College, the maximum number of students in the L. T. and undergraduate courses was raised to fifty each from the beginning of the current academic year, ten seats in each of these classes being reserved for women and ten for non-stipendiary students. The English branch of the Higher Grade Training School for Women has been removed to the Training College and a lady lecturer has been appointed to be in charge of that branch. A separate hostel for this college has also been opened during the current year.

55. During the past four years, the number of recognised English and Vernacular schools in the State has risen from 114 and 2,736 to 188 and 3,191, and the strength in them from 32,096 and 3,40,170 to 43,049 and 4,06,929, respectively, the number of girls under instruction rising from 1,22,444 to 1,55,023. There was, on an average, in 1099, one recognised school for every 2·23 square miles of the country and 1,169 inhabitants. 11·35 per cent. of the total population of the State were in attendance in such schools during the year, while 66·1 per cent. of the school-going population were studying in primary schools, either recognised or unrecognised. In pursuance of the directions for the opening of more schools in educationally backward taluks, referred to in paragraph 51 of my address last year, it is reported that as many as 62 new schools were opened in such taluks during 1099. From the beginning of the current school year, the Government have sanctioned the introduction of the double-shift system, as a tentative measure, in the ten Training Schools and in all departmental schools where additional teachers were required for Classes I and II. In these two classes, one teacher working for six hours a day is expected, under this scheme, to handle two sets of pupils, the school hours lasting from 9-30 A. M. to 12-30 P. M. and from 1-30 P. M. to 4-30 P. M., respectively. Having regard to the curriculum in force, the Government consider a period of three hours a day to be adequate for teaching these two infant classes. The scheme has been introduced in 187 primary schools for boys during the current school year. The arrangement is reported to be working satisfactorily in Bombay and the Central Provinces, and in the event of the experiment proving successful here also, every effort will be made to extend it gradually to all recognised schools. The substantial savings it might then enable the Government to effect could be profitably used in the further extension of primary education. The revised scheme for adult education in rural areas through the agency of night schools, referred to in paragraph 53 of my last year's address, consists of two years' tuition in the three R's, stories of interest and elementary lessons in hygiene and first aid, the period of instruction ranging from two to three hours between 7 P. M. and 10 P. M. This scheme bids fair to be popular, as may be gauged from the increase of such schools from 34 to 77 and their strength from 1,310 to 2,443, during the past one year.

56. The rules relating to the grant of full and half fee concessions to pupils belonging to the depressed and backward classes were revised with effect from the beginning of the current school year, provision being made for the extension of the benefits of the scheme to deserving poor pupils among educationally advanced communities and the benefits of the scheme being confined, as far as the backward classes were concerned, to those who, without the help of such concessions, could not possibly continue their studies. *Ad hoc* taluk committees have been constituted for the selection of beneficiaries under the scheme, and the elected taluk members of the Assembly are members of those committees. Orders on the report of the Scholarships Committee are under issue and they are calculated to remove the inequalities and haphazardness in the award of scholarships prevalent under the existing arrangements. Under the scheme of scholarships now being sanctioned, there will be two kinds of scholarships, (i) open, *i.e.*, available to all classes, and (ii) close, *i. e.*, reserved for the depressed and backward classes. Pupils belonging to *all* communities are eligible for open scholarships, subject to the condition that no pupil can hold more than one scholarship at a time. It is considered that scholarships are necessary only in respect of English

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

education ; and it is proposed to award both open and close scholarships solely on the ground of merit, to be adjudged on the basis of a comparative examination for English high schools and of the results of the English School Leaving Certificate and the Intermediate examinations for second grade and first grade colleges respectively. Provision has also been made in the scheme for a regional distribution of scholarships so far as second grade colleges and English high schools are concerned, so as to minimise the chances of a monopoly by educationally forward areas.

57. The total gross expenditure on education has risen from Rs. 25,83,442 to Rs. 35,21,497 and the net expenditure from Rs. 20,07,672 to Rs. 27,98,623 within the last four years, the rise in the percentage of the latter being 39·4.

58. Dr. T. Ganapati Sastri has been relieved of the work of the collection of Malayalam manuscripts and it has been entrusted to Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar, Secretary to Government, without prejudice to his regular duties. The publication of a selection of these manuscripts, under the designation of the *Śrî Mûlam Malayâḷam Series*, has been undertaken by him, and the first eight numbers of the series have been so far published.

Miscellaneous.

59. Devaswoms. A correct list of Sirkar Devaswoms was prepared for the first time in 1099 and published in the *Gazette*. According to this list, 129 of these Devaswoms are major, while the remaining 1,331 are either minor or petty. Under the provisions of the rules sanctioned by the Government in 1098 for the association of local inhabitants in the management of minor or petty Devaswoms, the management of 54 such Devaswoms has been assigned to private agencies up to the end of Vrischikam, 1100. The Devaswom Commissioner reports that the revival of such ancient arts associated with Devaswoms as *châkkiyârkûttu*, *tuḷḷal*, and *âṭṭam* is engaging his attention and that he proposes to make more methodical arrangements for the recital in Devaswoms of *itihâsas* and *purâṇas*. He also states that the legends and folklore connected with twenty-eight Devaswoms have been collected and that their publication in a suitable form is engaging his attention. With effect from Minam, 1099, the Government sanctioned the transfer of all Devaswom *porambokes*, including flower-gardens, *kaḷittaṭṭu* sheds, etc., to the Devaswom Department, and the question of utilising them to the best advantage of the institutions concerned is now under the consideration of the Devaswom Commissioner. As many as 119 Devaswom buildings have either been completely restored or are in process of restoration. Under the scheme for the restoration of minor Devaswoms under the contribution system, 40 Devaswoms were renovated till the end of Vrischikam, 1100, while 23 more are nearing completion. As a measure of relief to the tenants holding lands under the Pattazhi Devaswom, the Government have sanctioned the payment of half the rent in money at the commutation rate of 16 chackrams per *para* in the case of those tenants who pay the remaining half in kind.

60. Office Routine. Mr. V. Sekhara Menon, who was appointed as the Director of Office Systems to overhaul the system of Secretariat routine and record-keeping, worked for about a year from the 10th Kumbham, 1099. The records in the Secretariat which he had to deal with consisted of (i) old received and despatched letters kept in about 3,000 bundles, (ii) correspondence enclosed in covers numbering 15,000, (iii) about 1,50,000 open files dating from 1904 to 1921 in which year the disposal system was introduced, and (iv) the disposal files of 1921 and subsequent years. A special staff was given to him for the sorting and selection of the records for preservation and destruction; and before his relief, Mr. Sekhara Menon was able to examine all the bundles and covers, as also 75,000 open files, and to separate the important records among them for preservation. But the more valuable portion of his work consisted in the examination of the method of work in the Secretariat, the organisation of a central issue branch, and the suggestions for the simplification of Secretariat procedure. The balance of the work in connection with the Secretariat records has been entrusted to an officer who has been trained by Mr. Sekhara Menon.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly